



General Assembly

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Agenda item 46

**The situation in Afghanistan and its implications for
international peace and security**

**Letter dated 6 March 2001 from the Permanent Representative
of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations addressed to the
President of the General Assembly**

I have the honour to request you to circulate the enclosed messages dated 3 March 2001 from Kim Dae-jung, President of the Republic of Korea, addressed to you and the Secretary-General of the United Nations (see annexes), concerning the Taliban decree ordering the destruction of all Buddha statues within the Afghanistan territory, as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 46.

(Signed) **Sun Joun-yung**
Permanent Representative



Annex I to the letter dated 6 March 2001 from the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

I must convey to you my grave concern upon learning the news of the Taliban decree ordering the destruction of all Buddha statues within the Afghanistan territory.

Buddha statues in Afghanistan, including the great Bhamiyan Buddha statue, must be preserved as an irreplaceable cultural heritage of mankind. The Taliban leadership must immediately put an end to its systematic acts of destruction and take the necessary measures to protect this cultural heritage. As confirmed by the resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly and the Security Council, Afghanistan's cultural and historical heritage must be respected.

I call on you to take all measures within the competence of the United Nations to keep Afghanistan's cultural relics, constituting a common cultural heritage of mankind, from being devastated. My Government and I will fully participate in the efforts of the international community to protect the common heritage of mankind.

(Signed) **Kim Dae-jung**
President
Republic of Korea

His Excellency
Harri Holkeri
President of the General Assembly
United Nations

cc: Mr. Volodymyr Yu. Yel'chenko, President of the Security Council,
United Nations

Annex II to the letter dated 6 March 2001 from the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

3 March 2001

I must convey to you my grave concern upon learning the news of the Taliban decree ordering the destruction of all Buddha statues within the Afghanistan territory.

Buddha statues in Afghanistan, including the great Bhamriyan Buddha statue, must be preserved as an irreplaceable cultural heritage of mankind. The Taliban leadership must immediately put an end to its systematic acts of destruction and take the necessary measures to protect this cultural heritage. As confirmed by the resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly and the Security Council, Afghanistan's cultural and historical heritage must be respected.

You can be assured of my wholehearted support for the measures you and UNESCO have already taken to protect the cultural heritage in Afghanistan, and I wish to call on you to urgently take all measures within the competence of the United Nations to keep this cultural heritage from being devastated.

My Government and I will fully participate in the efforts of the international community to protect the common heritage of mankind.

(Signed) **Kim Dae-jung**
President
Republic of Korea

His Excellency
Kofi Annan
Secretary-General
United Nations

cc: Mr. Koichiro Matsuura, Director-General, UNESCO